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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 OTTAWA 002107

SIPDIS

STATE FOR ECA/PE/V/R/W - EWILKES-SCOTT

STATE FOR WHA/PDA - JANE CARPENTER-ROCK

STATE FOR WHA/CAN - TERRY BREESE

STATE ALSO FOR H

STATE PASS EPA FOR PETE CHRISTICH

STATE PASS INTERIOR FOR ERIC WILSON

USDA FOR PAULINE SIMMONS AND PRISCILLA JOSEPH

APP WINNIPEG MESSAGE 2005/07

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OEXC PREL CA IV](#)

SUBJECT: FY 2005 IVLP EVALUATION: KERRY MCQUARRIE SMITH; JANUARY 18 - FEBRUARY 4, 2005; STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Ref: [A] STATE 187945, [B] OTTAWA 2291

11. Summary: Program evaluation for International Visitor Leadership Program grantee Kerry McQuarrie Smith. End summary.

12. MPP Theme Addressed: Open Markets, Mutual understanding. Strategic Goal: Economic Prosperity.

13. Post Objectives: Learning about the U.S. federal system of government - overview of federalism; the relationship of states to the federal government; state-to-state relations; Canada-U.S. relations

-- Developing an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the federal and state governments in areas of shared jurisdiction including healthcare, energy, and agriculture.

-- Aboriginal self-government (aboriginal groups and their relationships to other local governments)

-- Understanding the federal-state relationship on environmental issues - specifically how environmental policy is developed and enforced in the context of Manitoba's ongoing disputes with North Dakota over water issues (Devils Lake and the Northwest Area Water Supply initiative). Specific topics might include water quality, the interbasin transfer of invasive species and foreign biota

14. Results: McQuarrie Smith found the program very useful both in terms of her professional development, and her understanding of U.S. federalism and the decision-making process in the United States. In particular, McQuarrie Smith said her IVLP gave her a much better understanding "where the U.S. is coming from" in developing policy, and how the dynamics within the U.S. federal system that shape U.S. policy differ from those in Canada. Her understanding of U.S. federalism was enhanced by a better understanding of the internal dynamics of the U.S. system and by seeing the number of different and overlapping levels of jurisdictional authority (e.g. City, County, regional government, etc.). Because Canadians are exposed to U.S. culture from a very early age, many assume they know everything they need to know about the country. When they spend an extended period of time in the United States - away from tourist attractions and other Canadians - they see that the United States does not fit into their preconceived notions. Post noted that McQuarrie Smith's understanding of the country and its people has been significantly altered and enhanced as a result, making her more closely attuned to the "real" America. We believe the program has had a profound impact on her views of the United States, and will make her more sensitive to U.S. interests and concerns as she begins her ascent through a very promising career in the Manitoba Government. Although the 3 weeks involved in the IVLP was a huge time commitment for a busy professional with a young family, she thoroughly appreciated the experience and said that she found it to be very useful in her professional development.

McQuarrie Smith complimented organizers on a visit that was generally well organized, with high-level and useful meetings with people who were of interest professionally. She also enjoyed the discussions she had with Americans outside of the official program that had nothing to do with work. Whether spending time with her hosts in several of the cities who spoke frankly about life in the United States, or talking to ordinary Americans she met in hotels or on the subway, she was surprised at how willing Americans are to enter into candid discussions about politics with somebody they barely know. Her travels gave her the opportunity to meet many people in different walks of life and she found the experience extremely useful in developing a better understanding of the American people and the things that

motivate them.

McQuarrie Smith found programming uneven between cities. Her program in Washington was busy, possibly due to losing a day's worth of programming time because of the Martin Luther King holiday - but there were sometimes long gaps between meetings in the other cities. She would have preferred a busier schedule and meeting with more people to enhance and maximize her opportunity to learn about the United States. She also said that she would have found it useful to do more of the programming in groups, or as joint sessions with other IVs on Individual programs who happened to be in the same cities at the same time. She found a joint session with other IVs in Washington (on U.S. federalism) very useful, and she believed it would be even more useful for IVs who are less familiar or comfortable in the United States to be paired up with others. After the briefing, she enjoyed the chance to speak with the other participants to compare notes and talk about their programs. McQuarrie Smith cited this example from Denver: In her hotel, she met up with an Italian IV and her ELO. Both McQuarrie Smith and the Italian participant had requested meetings with the Western Governor's Association, but only the Italian was successful in getting an appointment. She certainly understands that the WGA would find it repetitive to do separate briefing for two IVLPers on the same day, but perhaps they would have considered doing one joint session with both participants? Post endorses McQuarrie Smith's call to look at doing joint programming where possible to reduce the number of requests we make of busy interlocutors and to enhance the experience of participants.

McQuarrie Smith noted that she did not meet one person during her trip who admitted to being a Republican. She found it unusual, especially since she visited several "red states" and another (Wisconsin), which is very competitive. She would have found it useful to get the perspective of those millions of Americans who identify with the Republican Party.

McQuarrie Smith found the Washington program the busiest and best organized of the visit. She found the Inauguration and Inaugural events interesting and useful in understanding the importance of the presidency in American life, although she said she would like to visit Washington again sometime when it's not Inauguration week to get a better sense of how the city normally functions. She found the security overwhelming, especially at federal government buildings, but it gave her a better understanding of Americans' concerns about security post-9/11. She enjoyed visiting the Smithsonian in her free time, and she identified the Kermit the Frog exhibit as her favorite.

In Atlanta, McQuarrie Smith found the meetings interesting and useful, but the schedule was light. She said it was as if they only had enough programming for one day, but had to stretch it to cover two. The highlight of Atlanta was her meeting with Kathie Robichaud at the Research Alliance. McQuarrie Smith appreciated learning about Georgia's confident approach to the commercialization of biotechnology which McQuarrie Smith affectionately referred to as the "build it and they will come" approach.

McQuarrie Smith found the Denver visit to be the least useful of her visit. One meeting she identified as being with "an NGO that distributes needles to the third world" and was not really applicable to her area of interest, and another with a city councilor was not particularly useful. She also suffered from a stomach flu, which limited her involvement in the Ski Day with her Denver hosts that she was really looking forward to. She really appreciated the home hospitality she received in Denver, and said that her hosts and local organizers were all very gracious.

Upon arrival in Sacramento, McQuarrie Smith learned that the Executive Director of the local council for International Visitors had recently resigned, leaving the Intern to set up her program. Considering the adjustments the Intern had to make at the last moment to accommodate, McQuarrie Smith was very impressed with the arrangements that awaited her. The logistical arrangements in particular were detailed, correct, and useful. She described the appointments themselves as "up and down". The meeting with the energy utility turned out not to be that useful, although she found the meeting with the energy commission to be quite interesting and helpful in understanding California's recent history with deregulation. She found some direct parallels with the discussion over deregulation in Manitoba and Canada, and learned many lessons from California's experience that can be applied in the Canadian context. Her meeting with Governor Schwarzenegger's staff was good - but brief - and she developed a contact she intends to use in future contact with the state.

Madison was McQuarrie Smith's favorite city on the visit. Among the highlights in Madison was her meeting with Professor Richard Monette at the University of Wisconsin Law School. In what she identified as the best meeting of her program and the most applicable to the work she is doing at this point in her career, McQuarrie Smith had a long and thorough visit with Monette on a vast array of issues including Native American issues, and the

position of a small Midwestern state in the U.S. federalist system. They found they shared many common experiences from their Midwestern backgrounds. McQuarrie Smith also found the meeting with the State Senator especially useful in understanding state politics and Wisconsin's involvement in the Midwestern Legislative Conference, which Manitoba has recently joined. Although she found the meetings interesting and useful, her schedule again was somewhat light.

Among the things McQuarrie Smith discovered on her IVLP, she was surprised to learn that State legislators in Colorado serve part-time and are paid only \$30,000 per year. She contrasts that with Manitoba where legislators work full-time on behalf of their constituents, and she was left wondering who represents Coloradoans the rest of the time. She noted that it limits the number of people who can afford the time and cost of running for - and serving in - elected office. Also the role of lobbyists in policy research and developing position papers differs greatly from Canada. McQuarrie Smith is a little introverted and expected to enjoy the issues and learning of the program the most. She was surprised to discover that the interpersonal part of the program - both on and off program - gave her the most pleasure and the most long-lasting and positive memories of her visit.

McQuarrie Smith developed 6-7 good contacts on her IVLP that she will keep in touch with; some of whom she has already contacted and others that she will put in touch with their counterparts in the Manitoba Government so they can talk directly. Several of the people she met expressed an interest in visiting Winnipeg, and she will encourage them to come. She found it useful for her job to meet so many people and develop a better understanding of who to talk to in each state to set things up for future visits by legislators or government officials.

The transportation and logistics for the visit were very good. With the exception of the domestic flight arrangements - her name was misspelled on all of them so she had to call program organizers to get it fixed - the flights, taxis, metro arrangements all worked out perfectly. She said the hotels were fine: they were clean and safe, although the renovations at the hotel in Madison were somewhat inconvenient.

McQuarrie Smith does not really have the type of position where she can make a public statement about her IVLP. She does plan, however, to write a full report on her visit and share it with Manitoba Government officials and she has already shared contact and other information with colleagues.

15. APP WINNIPEG SENDS.